

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A polypeptide immunogen consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

Claim 2 (original): The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 3 (original): The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 4 (original): The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (original): An immunogen consisting of the polypeptide of claim 1 and one or more additional regions moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the immunogen of ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A nucleic acid comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1. ~~any one of claims 1-4.~~

Claim 9 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid is an expression vector.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A recombinant cell comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1. ~~any one of claims 1-4.~~

Claim 11 (original): A method of making a *S. aureus* polypeptide that provides protective immunity comprising the steps of:

- (a) growing the recombinant cell of claim 10 under conditions wherein said polypeptide is expressed; and
- (b) purifying said polypeptide.

Claim 12 (original): A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of an immunogen comprising a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, and said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein said ~~immunogen is~~ polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1. ~~the immunogen of any one of claims 1-5.~~

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said patient is treated prophylactically against *S. aureus* infection.

Claim 16 (original): A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide made by the method of claim 11.